

Appl. No. 09/773,245
Amdt. Dated September 24, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 1, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P11147-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3242

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claims 1-23 and claims 24-41 have been added. The source for the new claims is mainly in the description of Figure 2, pages 1-13 and 18 of the Specification. The Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 24-41 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing claim changes and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 13 and 14 were objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has canceled the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. Claims 1 and 9 have been canceled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 15, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom (US 5,590,133) in view of Kaiyama (US 5,615,210). The Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 15, 19 and 20 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

Claims 3 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom and Kaiyama and further in view of Rasanen (US 6,647,006). The Applicant has canceled claims 3 and 16-18 without prejudice. The rejection of these claims is rendered moot.

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Claims 5 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom and Kaiyama and further in view of Bellaton (US 6,473,425). The Applicant has canceled the claims 5 and 21 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

Claims 8-11, 14, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom and Kaiyama and further in view of Sipila (US 6,081,534). The Applicant has canceled the claims 8-11, 14, 22 and 23 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom and Kaiyama and further in view of Rasanen (US 6,674,741). The Applicant has canceled claim 12 without prejudice rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstrom and Kaiyama and further in view of Sipila and well established teaching in art. The Applicant has canceled claim 13 without prejudice rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

The Examiner's consideration of the new claims, is respectfully requested.

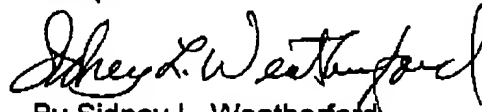
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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